

Listing of Claims Please amend the claims as follows (the changes in these claims are shown with strikethrough or ~~[[double-brackets]]~~ for deleted words/characters and underlines for inserted words/characters). A complete listing of the claims with proper claim identifiers is set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A guidewire comprising:
 - a body portion having a first diameter and comprising a multiple filament group of individual wire coils wound adjacent to one another, defining an open lumen;
 - a distal end portion having a substantially constant second diameter along a distance of at least four wound wire coils, wherein the second diameter is less than the first diameter;
 - a taper portion having a taper from the first diameter to the second diameter; and
 - a coating disposed over the distal end portion, taper portion, and at least a part of the body portion.
2. (Withdrawn) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating has a substantially continuous outer diameter.
3. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating defines a taper adjacent the taper portion.
4. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises an elastic material.
5. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a low-friction coating.
6. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a hydrophilic material.

7. (Withdrawn) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the distal end portion defines a lumen and a lumen opening, and wherein the coating terminates adjacent the opening.

8. (Withdrawn) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the taper portion comprises individual wire coils having different diameters.

9. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the taper portion comprises a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils wound at a pitch angle different than a pitch angle of a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils of the body portion.

10. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method of making a guidewire, comprising:
providing a multiple-filament group of individual wires;
winding the group around a longitudinal axis to form a body portion having a first diameter and one or more sequences of turns defining an open lumen; and
covering the body portion with a coating.

11. (Withdrawn) The guidewire method according to claim 10, wherein the covering step comprises dipping the body portion in liquid coating solution.

12. (Withdrawn) The guidewire method according to claim 10, further comprising forming a distal end having a second diameter that is less than the first diameter, and forming a taper portion having a taper from the first diameter to the second diameter.

13. (Withdrawn) The guidewire method according to claim 12, wherein the step of forming a taper portion comprises grinding individual wires of the taper portion.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of making a coated guidewire, comprising:
providing a guidewire comprising a body portion having a first diameter and comprising a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils wound adjacent to one another, a distal end having a second diameter that is less than the first diameter, and a taper portion having a taper from the first diameter to the second diameter; and covering the distal end with a coating.

15. (Withdrawn) The guidewire method of claim 14, further comprising covering the taper portion with the coating.

16. (Withdrawn) The guidewire method of claim 15, further comprising covering a part of the body portion with the coating.

17. (Withdrawn) The guidewire method of claim 15, wherein the coating has a continuous diameter.

18. (Withdrawn) The guidewire method of claim 15, wherein the coating defines a taper adjacent to the taper portion.

19. (Currently Amended) A guidewire comprising:
a body portion having a first diameter and comprising a multiple filament group of individual wire coils wound adjacent to one another, defining an open lumen;
a distal end portion having a substantially constant second diameter along a distance of at least four individual wire coils, wherein the second diameter is less than the first diameter; and
a taper portion having a taper from the first diameter to the second diameter.

20. (Withdrawn) The guidewire of claim 19, wherein the taper portion is machined so that at least one wire cooperating to define the wire coils has a varying thickness.

21. (Withdrawn) The guidewire device according to claim 19, wherein the taper portion comprises individual wire coils having different diameters.

22. (Previously Presented) The guidewire device according to claim 19, wherein the taper portion comprises a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils wound at a pitch angle different than a pitch angle of a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils of the body portion.

23. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A guidewire comprising:
a body portion having a first inner diameter and a first outer diameter and comprising a multiple filament group of individual wire coils wound adjacent to one another, defining an open lumen; and
a taper portion extending from the body portion and defining a decreasing second outer diameter and a substantially constant second inner diameter of the open lumen generally equal to the first inner diameter of the open lumen.

24. (Withdrawn) The guidewire of claim 23, wherein the taper portion is machined so that at least one wire cooperating to define the wire coils has a varying thickness.

25. (Withdrawn) The guidewire device according to claim 23, further comprising a coating disposed over the taper portion and at least a part of the body portion.

26. (Withdrawn) The guidewire device according to claim 25, wherein the coating has a substantially continuous outer diameter.

27. (Withdrawn) The guidewire device according to claim 25, wherein the coating defines a taper adjacent the taper portion.

28. (Withdrawn) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating has a substantially smooth outer diameter.

29. (Previously Presented) The guidewire of claim 3, wherein the taper portion of the guidewire and the taper defined by the coating define generally equal slopes.

30. (Previously Presented) The guidewire of claim 22, further comprising:
a coating disposed over the distal end portion, taper portion, and at least a part of the body portion, wherein the coating defines a taper adjacent the taper portion and wherein the taper portion of the guidewire and the taper defined by the coating define generally equal slopes

31. (NEW) An elongate medical device comprising:
an elongate shaft including

a body formed as a helically-wound single-file row of a plurality of abutting wires defining an open shaft lumen;

a sealing coating providing the lumen with a leakproof seal; and

a distal shaft portion that is more flexible than a proximal shaft portion.

32. (NEW) The elongate medical device of claim 31, where an outer diameter of the distal shaft portion is less than an outer diameter of the proximal shaft portion.

33. (NEW) The elongate medical device of claim 31, where the sealing coating is provided on an external surface of the body.

34. (NEW) The elongate medical device of claim 31, where the distal shaft portion includes an outer diameter smaller than an outer diameter of the proximal shaft portion.

35. (NEW) The elongate medical device of claim 31, where the distal shaft portion extends distally of the dilatation balloon and comprises a rounded obturator disposed at least partially in a distal end of the shaft lumen.
36. (NEW) The device of claim 31, configured as a catheter and further comprising a dilatation balloon having a balloon lumen in patent fluid communication with the shaft lumen.